

# LUKE I The Call of Mathew Text: Luke 5:27–32

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## *The Great Invitation from the Great Physician*

### 1. Can a Person Change? Is True Life Change Possible?

- a. Some Say No... They Say: IF You Are a Product of your PAST— and it's IMPOSSIBLE to CHANGE the PAST... then HOW is POSSIBLE to CHANGE?

### 2. Jesus Answers this Question... the kind of change we need is impossible alone But With God ALL THINGS Are POSSIBLE

- a. In Christ—We Can Be Transformed Into Something New! a New Creation

*“old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” (2 Cor. 5:17)*

### 3. Meaning: > That Was Then—This is Now! That was the Old Me, This is the New!

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## I. THE INVITATION: To New Life (v.27–28)

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### A. INVITATION TO A TAX COLLECTOR

#### 1. Tax Collectors Were Hated as TRAITORS...

- a) Working for the Roman Government – collecting Taxes FOR Rome
- b) With the force of Roman soldiers behind them to make people pay taxes.
- c) So They Were Considered Jewish Traitors for Rome

#### 2. Tax Collectors Were Hated as EXTORTIONERS...

- a) Because they Could Keep Anything They Over-Collected.
- b) They collected taxes, paid the Romans what he promised, and kept the remainder.
- c) So there was great motivation for tax collectors to over-charge for pure profit.

#### 3. As a Result—They Were Outcasts...

- a) They Weren't Accepted in Roman Society because they were Jews...
- b) But They Weren't Accepted by Jewish Society because they were considered traitors

*“...he was regarded as an outcast from society: he was disqualified as a judge or a witness in a court session, was excommunicated from the synagogue, and in the eyes of the community his disgrace extended to his family.” (William Lane)*

### B. INVITATION TO FOLLOW JESUS: ‘Follow Me’

#### 1. And Here Jesus approaches this Tax Collector and says: Follow Me And Mathew Leaves Everything and Follows Jesus...

#### 2. Peter, Andrew, James and John forsook all and followed Jesus (5:10-11) but I wonder what they thought of a tax collector joining them!

- a) Especially Their Own Tax Man!
- b) We have Evidence that Fish taken from the Sea of Galilee was taxed by Rome
- c) *“So Jesus took as His disciple the taxman that took money from Peter, James, and John and the other fishermen among the disciples.” (David Guzik)*

#### 3. To Understand How Much Mathew Gave Up... you have to realize...

- a) Fishermen could always go back to fishing if needed—but fishermen were not rich

*If there was a “Get-Rich-Quick” scheme in 1st century Israel it would be Tax-collecting*

- b) Mathew may have been the richest disciple—but Mathew would never go back.

### **C. INVITATION TO NEW LIFE**

- 1. I have a good friend who I've known in the Church for over 30 years...**
  - a) Before he became a Christian — He owned several liquor stores.
  - b) He had a family and Was Doing Well with a Two Story House on the CA coast.
  - c) But When He Became a Christian He Stopped Selling Alcohol...
  - d) the family went from being very comfortable—only to move into his parents house
  - e) They Struggled for a While but God is Faithful and he found work
  - f) He and another business partner started Silicon Valley College in the Bay Area
  - g) In time he became an Elder in the Church.

- 2. Jesus is Worth Everything You Are Afraid of Loosing!**

**What ever we give up for Him is nothing in comparison to eternity!**

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## **II. THE HONOR: of Following Christ (v.29)**

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### **A. SURRENDERING ALL MADE MATHEW THE HAPPIEST MAN IN WORLD**

- 1. Why is Matthew so happy?**

- a) He Just Left Everything Behind to Follow a Poor Preacher from Nazareth?!
- b) What Will His Parents Think? Or His Friends Think?

- 2. Matthew Doesn't Care! – Jesus Invited Mathew to a Whole New Life!**

- a) And Mathew is So Honored that He Leaves Everything Behind just to Follow Christ
- b) And Surrounding All For Jesus Has Made Him the Happiest Man in the World!

- 3. No One Can Serve Two Masters...**

- a) we make ourselves miserable if we try: Like Judas
- b) There is an inner Joy when Finally Commit to what is Right and Do It!
- c) It is a Joy No one Can Take From You!

### **B. MATHEW HAS A FEAST OF JOY AND JESUS IS THE HONORED GUEST**

- 1. Mathew Invites All His Tax Collector Friends**

- a) A Bunch of Outcasts Rejected by the rest of polite society

- 2. Jesus didn't go through the land hand picking the elite or powerful**

- a) Jesus called Fishermen, Tax Collectors, Zealots, outcasts—everyone!

- 3. What a strange scene for the disciples!**

- a) So this is what the inside of our Tax Collectors house looks like!
- b) These are the people Our Tax Collector Hangs Out With!

### **C. DO WE REALIZE THE HONOR OF SERVING THE KING?**

- 1. Surrendering all and following Jesus...**

**made Mathew the happiest man in the world!**

- 2. There is no greater friend than Jesus...**

**and no greater honor than serving Jesus our King!**

- 3. The Honor of Being Given a New Life, New Hope, New Future**

**The Joy of Salvation, of Complete Forgiveness, of Grace!**

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## III. THE CRITICISM: From Those Who Don't Understand (v.30)

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### A. NOT EVERYONE UNDERSTANDS

#### 1. ANGELS Understand!

- a) Jesus said: “there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.” (Lk 15:10) “there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.” (15:7)
- b) WHY? Because They Know What's at stake!

#### 2. PHARISEES Did Not Understand...

- a) They Did Not Understand the Mission or the Compassion of Christ
- b) They Didn't Understand the Deity of Christ
- c) They Didn't Understand They Needed a Savior as much as everyone else...

#### 3. MANY TODAY Do Not Understand...

- a) Instead of Being Happy You're a Christian, Many Just Shake Their Heads
- b) They Think You're Giving Up Your Freedom... but Don't Realize You've Been Set Free From the Slavery of Sin, Guilt and Shame and Condemnation!

### B. IT'S ALWAYS EASIER TO CRITICIZE THAN TO CHANGE...

#### 1. The Scribes and Pharisees were quick to diagnose the faults of others, but they were blind to their own faults...

- a) Even Though they Appeared Righteous on the Outside They Were Corrupt Within

#### 2. A CERTAIN MAN HAD TWO SONS...

- a) The Youngest son wanted his inheritance early... When he got it, he left
- b) He Took the Money and Wasted his inheritance with riotous living: He partied it away
- c) The Prodigal Son Hurt his father, brought Shame on the Family,
- d) And When the Money Disappeared then the Friends Disappeared... A Famine Hit
- e) The Prodigal Son Found Himself Alone, Destitute, Hungry, feeding slop to pigs
- f) He Realized his father's servants were better off than he was... He Went Back to apologize and ask if he could just return as a servant, not as a son

#### 3. (Luke 15:20–24) His Father Was Overjoyed! – And they Celebrated!

#### 4. But There Were Two Sons: The Elder Son was in the field (Luke 15:25–32)

- a) The Pharisees were not the “prodigal sons” guilty of the sins of the flesh, they were the “elder brothers” guilty of the sins of the spirit! (2 Cor. 7:1).

### C. ARE WE TOO CRITICAL TO ENCOURAGE LIFE CHANGE IN OTHERS?

#### 1. Are We Like the Older Brother Who Resented His Brother?

#### 2. Do We See Him as a Bundle of Bad Choices—

or Do We See the Worth of a Soul—worth more than all world?

#### 3. Didn't We Need Encouragement as well—When We Returned to Jesus?

#### 4. The Father said: It Was Right For Us to Rejoice and be Happy...

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## IV. THE PHYSICIAN: Only Jesus Can Save (v.31–32)

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### A. JESUS GAVE THE PERFECT ANSWER Which Had a Double Meaning

1. **What Good Would it be if a Doctor Only Visited the Healthy?**
  - a) A Doctor Must Go to Those In Greatest Need of a Cure
  - b) Mathew and His Friends Needed Jesus So He Went To Them
  - c) Jesus Came to Seek and Save the Lost...
2. **The Pharisees Didn't Think They Were Sick or Needed to Be Made Well**
  - a) They Thought They Were Fine
  - b) Why Would They Need Jesus?
  - c) They Considered themselves the Doctors and Lawyers of God's Law

### B. THE PROBLEM OF SIN:

#### Those who claim to have the cure are those afflicted with the disease!

1. The Pharisees were more concerned with keeping their own holiness than with the helping others who were afflicted by sin.  
—Like doctors who refused to visit the sick...  
in case they themselves might become infected.
2. They were more concerned with criticism than with encouragement.  
—Like Doctors Who Shame their Patients But Offer No Help.
3. The Pharisees Had Their Own Form of Righteousness that resulted in Condemnation Rather than Compassion or Forgiveness.  
—like doctors concerned with diagnosing disease...  
but not concerned in curing it.

### C. THE OTHER PROBLEM OF SIN:

#### Those Afflicted with the Disease Don't Know What Will Heal Them...

1. Some don't know that they are sick.
2. Some Think They Will Get Better On Their Own
3. Some Don't Know IF a Doctor Can Help
4. Some Don't Know WHAT Doctor Can Help
5. Some Don't TRUST the Doctor to Help
6. Some Don't Want to Do What the Doctor Says is necessary

### D. ONLY JESUS IS THE GREAT PHYSICIAN...

1. He is always available.
2. He always makes a perfect diagnosis.
3. He provides a complete cure.
4. He even pays the doctor's fee!

**CONCLUSION: (Revelation 3:20) The Great Invitation from the Great Physician!  
But We Must TRUST His Wisdom and Expertise!**